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Recently, Mr. Atherton, Executive Secretary of the National Commission on Fine Arts, called my attention to the fact that this year is the tenth anniversary of CIA's occupancy of its Headquarters Building at Langley, Virginia. He told me of how your Agency, 13 years ago, submitted its proposed architectural design to the National Commission as a matter of courtesy, even though not required by law since the building was outside of the District of Columbia. The Commission responded so favorably to the design that it offered its whole hearted endorsement.

It seems to me time has honored the judgment of both CIA and the Commission. Your building is indeed esthetically one of the most exciting and stimulating of our Federal buildings, enhanced as it is by the preservation of the exterior surroundings.

During my visit to CIA in 1965 I was impressed by the results of the continuing concern of the Agency to maintain and enhance the interior of the building. Mr. Atherton has told me of his recent visit there and that these efforts have not abated.

The establishment of a pleasing and interesting environment is important, I feel, not only in human terms, but also because it is in the long run more economical--only if we have pride will we respect and take care of our environment.

On behalf of the National Commission on Fine Arts I want to commend you and your coworkers in the interest and effort you have sustained in these regards.

*Draft given on Fri - Mar 5 to
Chuck Atherton. a possibility for
letter from Bill Helms. (N.A. and FAC
to Helms. in re Show on Bldg.)*

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